



Hello Friends:

CONGRATULATIONS

Let me first start off by saying “**CONGRATULATIONS**” to **Bakersfield native Joey Porter**, of **Foothills High**, and his **Pittsburg Steelers** on their hard-fought win over the **Seattle Seahawks** in **Super Bowl XL** last weekend. It is always great to see someone from home achieving phenomenal success at such a high level.

LEGISLATIVE RETREAT

Our **Legislative Retreat** this week allowed my colleagues and I to sit down, away from the hustle and bustle of Sacramento, and carve out priorities for the **Assembly Democratic Agenda** this year.

A number of intense workshops were held over two days on issues, bonds and the budget. The overriding concern, though, as expressed by most members, is education.

Other issues, like the Governor’s infrastructure bonds are important, but they cannot and should not be the sole issue with which we are predominantly concerned.

There are other issues, other problems that need correcting, and one of those issues is education.

We were all in agreement that in order to confidently say that our educational system is what it needs to be, it is imperative to work toward:

- Getting every student to pass the exit exam
- Reducing the number of drop outs
- Ensuring that textbooks are affordable
- Attracting the best and the brightest teachers to inner-city schools

I look forward to working with both my Democratic and Republican colleagues on improving California’s educational system. It is important that we all come together to ensure that our children have access to the brightest future possible, and that starts with a quality education.

VALENTINES FOR VETERANS BUS RIDE

This week, I also really enjoyed spending time with veterans, as we took a bus ride to present Valentine’s Day cards and gifts to veterans at the **Fresno VA Administration Hospital**. Joining me on the bus ride was the **Corcoran VFW, Post # 6358**; the **Hanford American Legion, Post # 3**; the **Kern County American Legion, Post # 865**; the **Marine Corp League, Kings County**

Detachment # 455; and the Tulare AMVETS, Post 56.

Special thanks to **Judy Horn** and the children of the **Saturday Enrichment Program**, hosted by the **Hand-In-Hand Resource Center**, for creating 100 Valentine's Day cards for our veterans.

This bus ride is a really special event for me, as we pay tribute to the veterans who have fought and those who continue to fight hard for our nation. I commend and hold the deepest respect for their commitment to duty and their patriotism.

CALIFORNIA YOUTH CONNECTION

Last week, I met with representatives from **California Youth Connection (CYC)** in **Sacramento**, and this week, I met with them at my **Bakersfield District Office**, where we discussed the general operations of CYC and how the organization is progressing in the 30th District. We also chatted about CYC's Kern County Chapter, which is coming soon.

I would like to highlight once again the uniqueness of this organization, as it is comprised of foster youth, both past and present, who work diligently in formulating policies and advocating for legislation on behalf of California's foster youth population.

For more information on **CYC**, please visit their web site at <http://www.calyouthconn.org/site/cyc/> or simply call **CYC's** statewide office at 415-442-5060.

PROFESSIONAL LATINA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, I will be the keynote speaker at an event sponsored by the **Professional Latina Women's Association**, which is hosting their first annual fashion show, an ancestral tribute, to highlight the pre-Columbian era of the Aztecs. **Carol Hernandez** is the current **President of the Professional Latina Women's Association**.

The fashion show promises to give those in attendance a great education and a glimpse of Aztec culture.

An awards presentation will also occur. I would like to congratulate the following on their hard work and contributions to their communities:

- **Business of the Year:** **La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant**
- **Educational Leadership:** **Mike Mendoza**
- **Judicial Leadership:** **Tom DeSantos**
- **Medical Leadership:** **Daniel Urritia**
- **Hall of Fame:** **Esther Rubalcava (posthumously)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAL GRANTS AND FAFSA WORKSHOPS

As many of you might know, paying for college can be difficult, but California has always been a leader in providing eligible students with an affordable college education. Cal Grants, a need-based financial aid program, has been a big part of making college affordable for many California families. Qualified students can get up to \$8,322 a year to attend almost any college in California – awards vary depending on need, grades, and the college you attend.

This year I will be hosting four **Cal Grant and FAFSA Workshops** throughout my district to give high school seniors, community college transfer students (under 24 years of age), and GED holders (within one year of completion) an opportunity to learn about and apply for **Cal Grants** and other types of financial assistance programs. It is important to note that in order to be considered

for many of these programs you must submit a **Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** application to the **U.S. Department of Education** before **March 2nd**.

Below you will find a list of dates and locations for upcoming Cal Grant Workshops I will be hosting throughout the district. If you are unable to make any of these, I encourage you to visit www.fafsa.ed.gov for information on filling out a FAFSA form and www.csac.ca.gov for information on CAL Grants.

McFarland
Sunday, February 19th
Noon to 2:00 p.m.
McFarland High School Cafeteria
601 Second St.

Arvin
Sunday, February 26th
Noon to 2:00 p.m.
Arvin High School Cafeteria
900 Varsity Road

Hanford: TBD

If you are planning to attend any of these workshops please be sure to bring the documents listed below. They will be needed to properly fill out your financial aid forms.

- Federal income tax returns from 2004 or 2003
- Your W-2 forms or pay-check stubs
- Bank statements
- Your Social Security Card or number
- Your parents' W-2 forms
- Your parents' Social Security Card or numbers

ONGOING EVENT

When you have some free time, please join **Pastor Jordan, Isiah Crompton**, and other community members in their effort to get out the message about stopping violence in our communities. They walk from house to house every Saturday, knocking on doors and explaining to people the importance of keeping an eye on and working against violence in our neighborhoods. I would like to invite everyone, from individuals, to families, to groups of friends, and any concerned organizations to join us in making our streets safer for our families and our children. For more information on the **Stop the Violence** campaign, please contact **Pastor Jordan at (661) 472-2637**.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The **City of Hanford** will be holding its **Black History Month Celebration** on Saturday, **February 25th** at the **Hanford Civic Auditorium** on 400 N. Douty Street. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is at 6:00 p.m. Tickets for the dinner are \$20.00.

There will be various forms of entertainment including, live musical performances, stories, songs and visual arts. As I find more information, I will keep you informed. For any questions, though, please contact my **Hanford District Office at (559) 585-7170**.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

On February 7, **Paul DeLaRiva**, of my **Bakersfield District Office** attended a meeting of the **Campaign for College Opportunity**, a nonprofit organization solely devoted to ensuring that the

next generation of Californians has the chance to go to college as promised by the state's 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education. The co-founders of the Campaign are the **California Business Roundtable**, the **Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund** and the **Community College League of California**.

The meeting was hosted by: **California State University, Bakersfield**; **Kern Community College District**; **Kern County Black Chamber of Commerce**; **Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation**; and the **University of California, Merced, Bakersfield Center**.

The dialogue panel included **Patrick Collins**, President & CEO, **Kern Economic Development Corporation**; **Dr. Horace Mitchell**, President, **California State University, Bakersfield**; and **Milton Younger**, Senior Partner, **Chain, Younger, Chon, Stiles**.

For additional information on the **Campaign for College Opportunity**, please contact the Campaign's Community Organizer, **Maricela Renteria**, at (213) 817-6034.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Scholarship Opportunities

Any students interested in nursing careers should strongly consider applying for the Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship at Bakersfield College. **IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY!**

I know how stressful it can be to have to worry about taking out student loans to pay for college, but you never have to repay scholarship money.

For more information on applying for the **Fall 2006/Spring 2007** scholarship call the **Health Professionals Education Foundation** at **1-800-773-1669** or visit www.healthprofessions.ca.gov. The application **deadline** for the fall 2006/spring 2007 school year scholarship is **March 24th 2006**.

Youth In Need

The **California Coalition for Youth's (CCY)** mission is to be the **PLACE** that improves and empowers the lives of California's youth by:

- **Partnering with youth**
- **Linking with youth-serving programs throughout California**
- **Advocating for youth rights**
- **Connecting youth to resources**
- **Educating communities, policymakers, and stakeholders**

The **CCY** also coordinates a statewide, toll free, 24-hour, confidential phone crisis line available to young people between the ages of 12-24, and concerned friends and family members. **CCY** provides crisis intervention counseling on many issues including family problems, sexual assault, eating disorders, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, suicide and more. **CCY** offers support, encouragement, and referrals to youth needing assistance or in crisis situations. The **California Youth Crisis Line** connects an average of 12,000 callers with vital resources annually. Agencies as well as young adults from every county in California use the Crisis **Line's toll-free number, 1-800-843-5200**.

NEED HOMEWORK HELP?

The **California State Library** has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework Help**. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to

note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

Live Homework Help is easy! Log on to <http://www.library.ca.gov/tutor/> from your computer any time between **1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.** and follow the simple setup instructions.

MEETING REQUESTS

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Ellen Manolis** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov .

INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for the fall internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield and Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley. Applications can be found by going to:
<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Matt Rogers** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov.

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Paula DeLaRiva** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov.

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov .

Bakersfield Office:

601 24th St.,
Suite A
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Phone: (661) 334-3745
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Hanford Office:

321 N. Douty St.,
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Phone: (559) 585-7170
Fax: (559) 585-7175

Capitol Office:

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
Phone: (916) 319-2030
Fax: (916) 319-2130

Email: Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov

Web Site: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

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